

Remarks

The specification has been amended to add section headings.

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, and 13 were rejected as anticipated by ARSLAN et al. 6,615,174. Claims 4-5 were rejected as unpatentable over ARSLAN et al.; claims 9, 11, and 14 were rejected further in view of LEE et al. ("A New Voice Transformation Method Based on Both Linear and Nonlinear Prediction Analysis"); and claims 7, 10, 12, and 15 were rejected further in view of GIBSON et al. 6,336,092. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Amended claim 1 provides, among other features, that the reproducing step occurs after the real time processing, which is defined in the claim as including at least the second spectral analysis step, the comparison step, and the correction step. Support for the amendment is found at page 5, lines 12-26 and in the specification and figure when considered in their entirety by one of skill in the art.

ARSLAN et al. do not disclose this real time processing or that the reproducing step occurs after this real time processing and thus the claims avoid the rejection under §102.

ARSLAN et al. disclose a voice conversion system wherein a codebook is used for converting an audio signal. This system is used for transforming a spoken word or phrase so that it sounds like the spoken word or phrase of another speaker.

However, the codebook is prepared as a preliminary step using processed sample of both the source and target speakers (column 5, lines 36-39). Thus, the system uses predefined parameter settings that are memorized in the codebook for modifying the audio signal (Figure 3, step 304). Consequently, ARSLAN et al. have the drawback of the known prior art, as discussed in the present specification at pages 2-3.

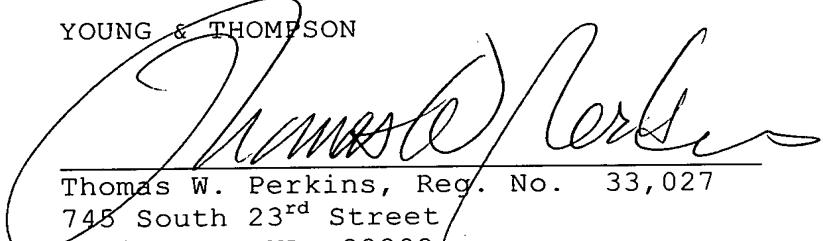
The dependent claims are allowable for same reasons.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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TWP/mjr